

APPENDIX A

Glenlude Property Description

Location: Standing at 470m Glenlude is a small hill property set within the Southern Uplands in the heart of the Scottish Borders between the scenic Tweed and Yarrow Valleys. The B709 bounds the eastern edge of the property for 2 miles, with the northern boundary running alongside the Glenlude Burn to the west of Glenlude Farmhouse before turning south to re-join the road near Mountbenger Hope.

It is surrounded to the north, west and south by extensive hill farming of sheep and cattle – Kirkhouse and Mountbenger Farms, and to the east intensive commercial forestry – Kirkhouse North.

Size: 149.39 hectares (368 acres) of hill ground comprising Glenlude Hill (470m) and a narrow strip of land either side of Glenlude Burn to the north of Glenlude Farmhouse.

Statutory Designations: A small section of the Paddock Burn falls within the **River Tweed Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**, this is an area of approximately 1 hectare.

Management Agreements: In response to a request from the current owners of Glenlude Farmhouse the Trust will not plant trees on the Trusts property in a strip 25 meters to the south or east of the entire common boundary with Glenlude Farmhouse.

Tenure: There are no tenancies on the estate. Rights of access exist across the estate by the track from the B709 at NT312 298 to:

- Traquair Estates
- Glenlude House
- Glenlude Farmhouse formally Kirkhouse Farmhouse

The Traquair Estates and tenants have a further right of access from this track to the sheep fank at NT302 298

There are no recorded wayleaves or rights of way although the Southern Upland Way runs close to Glenlude approximately 800metres to the northwest of the boundary.

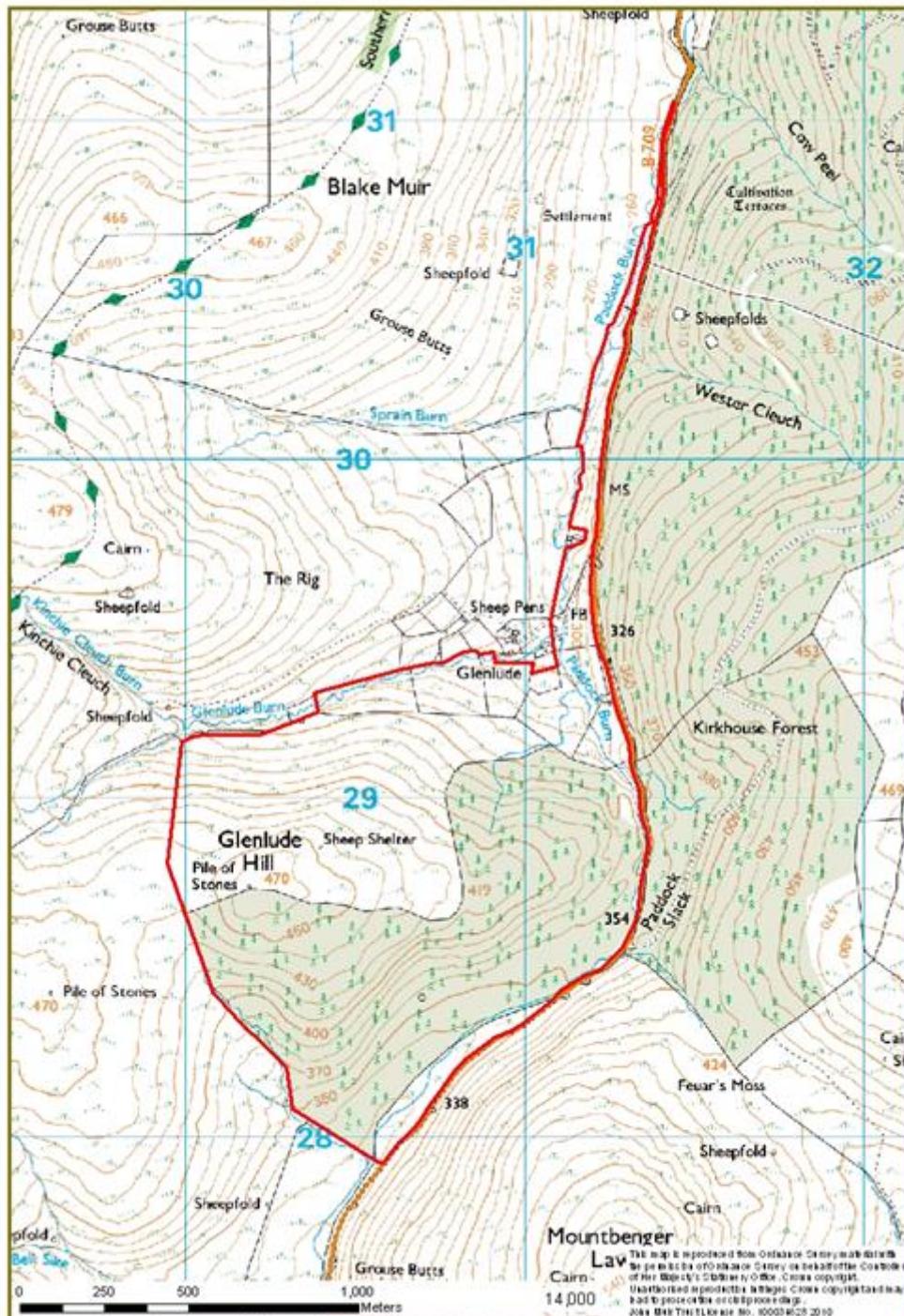
History: Originally an upland sheep farm, this property was gifted to the John Muir Trust in 2004 by the late Sheila Bell who retained a lifetime tenancy until her death in November 2010. Sheila Bell had purchased the property in two roughly equal parts during 2000. These were Glenlude Forest (formerly Kirkhouse) which had been planted by the Forestry Commission (now Forest & Land Scotland) in 1995; and the open hillside of Glenlude hill farm including a strip of land either side of Glenlude burn on the west of the B709. Prior to 1995 both sections had been managed together as rough sheep pasturage within Glenlude Hill Farm.

The Trust took over day to day management of Glenlude upon Sheila Bell's death in 2010.

Geology and soils: Base rock of Silurian sediments, in the form of greywackes, shales and siltstones. The parent material is generally homogenous over the whole area with different soil types due to variations in altitude and slope. Blanket peat and peaty podsols predominate the lower lying parts of the site with peaty podsols also present on some upper slopes and summits. Thinner, more freely draining iron podsols are present in the mid slope areas.

There are several Calcareous flushes present on the southwest facing slopes draining towards the Mountbenger burn.

Drainage across the entire site marks a watershed between the Tweed and the Yarrow valleys. To the south via the Mountbenger Burn towards Yarrow Water and north via the Paddock Burn towards the River Tweed.



History of Settlement and Land Use: For several centuries Glenlude was farmed primarily for sheep forming part of Glenlude Farm. In 1995 the then Forestry Commission purchased half the property

to plant mostly conifers. In 2000 Sheila Bell purchased the plantation and the other half of Glenlude Hill with a plan to rewild the whole property.

No sites of archaeological significance have been identified. A stiel located in the heart of the plantation area was not planted over in 1995 and has since been rebuilt by volunteers to create a wild camping area.

Contemporary Land Use & Pressures: The Scottish Borders is a working landscape. Traditionally dominated by farming, in recent years there has been a vast expansion of largescale commercial forestry as farming becomes less viable and prices for forestry land have increased dramatically.

Forestry managed by Forest & Land Scotland has been well developed across the South of Scotland to accommodate mountain bikers, walkers and horse riders bringing a great deal of economic benefit to the area. However, whilst there are large tracts of commercial forestry there are many exciting rewilding and community woodland projects. Most notably Borders Forest Trust's Carrifran Wildwood, 14 miles as the crow flies from Glenlude. The Southern Uplands Partnership is working with land managers and owners to consider opportunities for new woodlands and has been key in establishing the South of Scotland Environmental Alliance (SoSEA) working alongside the Crichton Carbon Centre to do so. Glenlude falls with the SoSEA area.

The entire Glenlude property has been affected by man at some point in its history. But today engagement using the rewilding project as the main medium is the predominant land use with free, unrestricted access to the public all year round. An access gate has been installed at the main entrance and existing paths and rides maintained clear of obstacles.

Forestry plays a large part in the day-to-day management of the property, initially trees were of a size suitable for hand felling by volunteers & staff, but recent growth rates have made it necessary for contractors to be engaged to mechanical fell and extract from some areas. Horse logging has also been carried out successfully and sits well with the ethos of the Trust and Glenlude.

In the autumn of 2021, a Statutory Plant Health Notice was served in relation to larch (10ha) growing within 7 compartments across the site, it was found to be infected with *Phytophthora ramorum* therefore felling had to be completed by end February 2022.

Local Importance: The advantage of the site's central location is its accessibility. Since 2012 it has evolved into a centre of volunteer engagement supporting a range of engagement and educational activity. This ranges from children's workshops in bush craft to family birdbox making and visits from professional ecologists and forestry students as part of their training. We have also built-up long-standing relationships with other charities working with adults and young people.

Glenlude attracts many groups and individuals participating in the Trust's environmental award scheme – the John Muir Award. Schools and groups from social inclusion backgrounds make good use of its potential for outdoor learning; raising their awareness; helping to put something back and wild camping.

In 2021 142 volunteers gave 271 days of conservation work across 35 work parties.

Natural Heritage Designation

A small section of the Paddock Burn falls within the River Tweed SAC, this is an area of about 1ha and forms less than 1% of the total area of the protected site. It is significant for salmon par and lamprey.

This section runs alongside and through a strip of native woodland stretching north towards Traquair. It is habitat for dipper, pied wagtail and sand marten.

Supported by [Nature Scot](#) funding the previous owner had 4 ponds created above the orchard on the north side of the property, fed by the upper reaches of the Paddock Burn. These ponds function well and provide habitat for palmate newt, mallard, mayfly & stonefly larva as well as several species of damselfly.